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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/USSR

DATE DISTR. 14 October 1948

SUBJECT Rumors of Annexation of
Czechoslovakia to the USSR
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. It is rumored in well informed circles that a customs union will be formed between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union and that the ruble will be introduced as the unit of currency in Czechoslovakia, possibly on 28 October or 9 November.
2. It is further reported that on one of these dates an interim government will be formed to prepare for complete annexation. Nationalist Communists such as the Slovaks Clementis, Husak, Pavlik, Novomesky, and Pul are to be removed, although there is also a rumor that Clementis will be permitted to retain his office. Siroky, Bastovansky, and Smidke, whose views are Cominformist, will be retained. Fris, the brains of the Slovak Communist Party, may become a member of the Prague government.
3. Svoboda, Minister of Defense, is expected to be replaced by Slansky, and Duris, Minister of Agriculture, by Kotatko. Duris is opposed to the Kolkhoz system, which is to be introduced soon as a form of "voluntary cooperative farming".

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